

Message Text

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12

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 EUR-25 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 OMB-01 RSR-01

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R 220308Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7483

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USEC BRUSSELS 0094

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EEC, ETRD, RP

SUBJECT: ASEAN-EC TALKS

REF: A) MANILA 9128; B) STATEE 161838

BEGIN SUMMARY: ASEAN MEMBERS PLAN SUBMIT PRODUCT LIST TO SIR CHRISTOPHER SOAMES IN BANGKOK WITH REQUEST THAT EC INCLUDE ASEAN PRODUCTS IN GSP LIST, PREFERABLY WITH TREATMENT EQUAL TO THAT ENJOYED BY ASSOCIATED AFRICAN STATES BUT WITHOUT REVERSE PREFERENCE FEATURES.
END SUMMARY.

1. MRS. ROSARIO MANOLO, ACTING CHIEF ASEAN SECRETARIAT IN DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND ROBERTO GARCIA, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH
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OF CENTRAL BANK AND HEAD OF PHIL TECHNICAL PANEL AT GATT,

CONFIRMED TO EMBOFFS THAT RECENT SPECIAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASEA, (SCCAN) MEETING IN MANILA (REF A) RESULTED IN AGREED UPON PRODUCT LIST FOR SUBMISSION AT MEETING WITH SIR CHRISTOPHER SOAMES IN BANGKOK. WHEN ASKED, MRS. MANOLO INITIALLY DESCRIBED MEETING WITH SOAMES AS "BARGAINING SESSION" BUT HER SUBSEQUENT REMARKS INDICATED THAT REAL GOAL OF MEETING IS TO ENCOURAGE EEC TO MAKE POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO GRANT PREFERENCES TO ASEAN PRODUCTS. OTHER SOURCES INDICATE POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO EXTEND PREFERENCES ALREADY MADE, BUT EC WOULD TREAT WITH ASEAN ONLY AS A GROUP AND STRUCTURE PREFERENCES NOT YET DECIDED.

2. MANOLO COMMENTED THAT FILIPINOS VIEWED SOAMES, WHO HAS AGREED TO STOP IN BANGKOK EN ROUTE TO TOKYO GATT TALKS, AS ESSENTIALLY "POLITICAL" FIGURE RATHER THAN A TECHNICIAN. SHE SAID SOAMES HAD SENT AN ASSISTANT, TRAN VAN THINH, TO CONSULT WITH ASEAN MEMBERS, INDICATING BROAD PARAMETERS WITHIN WHICH REQUEST SHOULD BE FORMULATED, AND THAT HE HAD BEEN MOST HELPFUL. THINH, IN TURN, APPARENTLY PERSUADED SOAMES TO MAKE BANGKOK STOP.

3. INITIAL ASEAN LISTS WERE REDUCED UPON INFORMAL INDICATION BY EC THAT THEY WERE TOO EXTENSIVE. PRESENT REQUESTS, HOWEVER, STILL GO SUBSTANTIALLY BEYOND REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS OF ASEAN MEMBERS. ASEAN WILL ASK FOR INCLUSION IN EC GSP LIST OF PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO ASEAN MEMBERS ESPECIALLY THOSE DISADVANTAGED BY SPECIAL TREATMENT GIVEN ASSOCIATED AFRICAN STATES. MANOLO COMMENTED THAT INCLUSION ON EC GSP LIST WOULD NOT NECESSARILY PLACE PRODUCTS ON PAR WITH THOSE FROM AFRICAN STATES BUT SAID ASEAN WOULD BE PRESSING FOR MOST LIBERAL CATEGORY OF EC GSP TREATMENT FOR PRODUCTS INVOLVED. FEELING OTHERS IS THAT TREATING ASEAN AS GROUP MAY YIELD TOO GENERAL A LIST AND FALL FAR SHORT OF REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS. EMBASSY ALSO INFORMED BY GARCIA THAT ASEAN NOT CONSIDERING REVERSE PREFERENCES FOR EC COUNTRIES.
SULLIVAN

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